Safety zone

2889. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to strengthen security of India's offshore oil and gas installations and prevent sabotage and terrorist attacks on them, Government is planning to extend 'safety zone' around the installations to five nautical miles from the existing 500 metres;

(b) whether a draft proposal of Home Ministry on India's security incorporates this proposal for declaring larger area around offshore installations a 'no vessel zone'; and

(c) if so, whether Cabinet has approved the proposal and by what time it is to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The need to extend the safety zone around petroleum installations beyond 500 metres is under discussion with the concerned authorities (Coast Guard, Navy, OISD, ODAG etc.)

(b) No, Madam. There is no such proposal initiated by Ministry of Home Affairs.

(c) In view of the above, does not arise.

LPG connections in Andhra Pradesh

2890. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are preparing to provide ten lakh gas connections to Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the plan; and

(c) what efforts his Ministry is making to supply LPG cylinders within 24 hours of booking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) do not make any allocation for release of new LPG connections, however the entire demand for new connections is being met by existing LPG agencies with connections being released within a period of 60 days of booking, after due verification.

However, OMCs have released 5.16 lakh new LPG connections during the period April-September 2009, against the request of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for release of 10 lakh new LPG connections during the year 2009-10, which is more than the prorata releases.